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Cultural Society Advisor

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Cultural Society

The Cultural Society

**Of Valley Stream South H.S.
presents..**

World Culture Night



Friday, May 30th, 2008

6:30 – 9:30 PM

Cultural Society Advisors

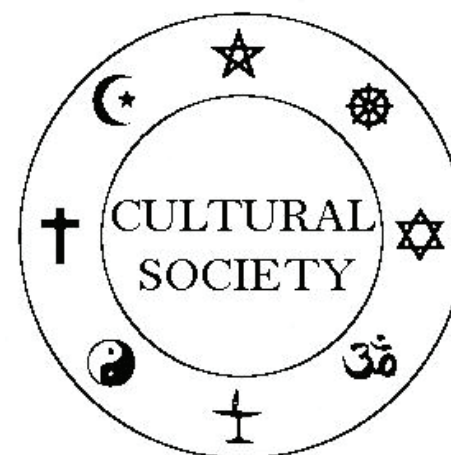
Ms. Eftihia Katsaros
Mr. Jeffrey Hsi

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Special Thanks to ...

Ellen Hsi - Assistant Advisor
Stiven Hernandez - Art
Lisa Benison and the Banner Crew
Jonathan Topol - Lighting
Ms. Poje and Ms. Vali - Costumes
Kerri Lines - Video
Patty Chow and the Chinese Center of LI
Randy Yung
Jason Hsi
St. Demetrious Church of Merrick
Stage Crew
Falcon Report Crew
Parents Club
Ross Lipsky
Nell Landman



Bollywood Dance

The dancing in Bollywood films, especially older ones, is primarily modeled on traditional Indian dance. In modern films, Indian dance elements often blend with Western dance styles. The hero or heroine will often perform with a troupe of supporting dancers.

Performed by: Solmar Abril, Christopher Alonzo, Asma Alvi, Ayesha Alvi, Binish Anjum, Mohammed Ansari, Jillian Borja, Samara Bustamante, Dimple Chhatlani, Roshan Chhatlani, Jake Ciorciari, Chetram Deochand, Amy Evron, Stephanie Farkash, Jen Hillman, Shamayal Jamil, Stephanie Jogie, Saba Kabir, Kristine Lee, Jenna Lentini, Resham Mahtani, Estefania Martinez, Ruby Namoca, Glenn Noynay, Christian O'Brien, Vagnola Pamphile, Rebecca Quinn, Aneesa Rafeek, Christine Rai, Victoria Rothbard, Tina Sciortino, Nicole Silverstein, Ann Starling, Chloe Steindam, Fatima Vali, Aamir Waheed, Sana Waheed, Derrick Ward, Felyn Wolkowicki, Angela Yeh, Gabrielle Young, Namrah Zaman

Choreographed by: Dimple Chhatlani



Letter from the Co-President

Family and Friends of the Cultural Society,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the Cultural Society's last event for the year, World Culture Night. Since our last major event, Cultural Dinner Theater, hosted with the Language Honor Society, the students went from acting to dance rehearsals. Never was there a time of rest for our dedicated members.

As a club, we have continued to hold many prosperous fundraisers such as a second zeppole sale and the celebration of Cinco de Mayo, where the students were entertained with a preview of the Mexican skirt. In addition, the club's cultural impact has managed to reach beyond the walls of the schools as members of the club were treated to historical tours of New York City. With our advisor Mr. Jeffrey Hsi as our tour guide, the students were educated about ancient Minoan Civilizations and Japanese block printing while enjoying a variety of ethnic foods up along 2nd Ave.

With our funds raised throughout the year, we have managed to obtain a myriad of cultural costumes for a majority of tonight's performances. But of course our progress would not have been possible without the support of our parents and the wife of a certain cultural advisor. Thank you and enjoy the show!

Warm Regards,
Amanda Lou
Co-President



Letter from the Co-President

Dear Parents,

Thank you all for attending World Culture Night 2008! The Cultural Society is a highly unique and special club whose goal is to spread cultural awareness throughout our school and the community. Founded last year, this club embodies the essence of learning about distinct cultures and backgrounds through student participation in events, celebrations, and shows. We seek to teach both students and adults about the various aspects of other cultures including their language, food, customs, music, dances, clothing, etc.

We celebrate different cultures by holding food sales for numerous holidays such as Diwali, Cinco de Mayo, Eid, Chinese New Year, and others. In March, our Cultural Dinner Theater allowed non-native speakers (our students) to act in a play composed of five different languages. And just as an enormous amount of time was spent learning how to speak another language, we have worked extremely hard to present you with tonight's amazing performances. So sit back and enjoy the show as you are about to experience a cultural explosion!

Sincerely,
Dimple Chhatlani
Co-President



Italian Opera

Italian opera is both the art of opera in Italy and opera in the Italian language. Opera was born in Italy around the year 1600 and Italian opera has continued to play a dominant role in the history of the form until the present day.

Many famous operas in Italian were written by foreign composers, including Handel, Gluck and Mozart. Works by native Italian composers of the 19th and early 20th centuries, such as Rossini, Bellini, Donizetti, Verdi and Puccini, are amongst the most famous operas ever written and today are performed in opera houses across the world.

Title of Piece: *O Mio Babbino Caro* by Gianni Schicchi

Performed by: Emily Sherman



Swing Dance

Swing dance commonly refers to a group of dances that developed concurrently with the swing style of jazz music. The best known of these dances is the Lindy Hop, a popular partner dance that originated in Harlem and is still danced today.

The earliest forms of swing dance, such as the Black Bottom, Charleston and tap dance, are associated with Dixieland jazz, which developed in New Orleans. These sorts of dances traveled north with jazz to cities like New York, Kansas City, and Chicago in the Great Migration that began in the 1920's.

Performed by: Christina Gerasimovich, Rebecca Quinn, Jonathan Gil, Juan Alzate, Matthew Bishop, Moses Syldort, Michael Hung, Marc Lim, Kristen Wraith, Bryan Garrett, Jeremy Cortez, Skylar Kettering, Sonya Huang, Nirali Patel, Samara Bustamante, Adriana Tringone, Nicholas Chong, Victoria Rothbard

Choreographed by: Marisol Sevilla

Taught by: Marisol Sevilla, Jeffrey Hsi



Schedule of Events

Greek Dance	6
Tinikling - Filipino Stick Dance	7
Spanish Pop Song	8
Mexican Skirt Dance	9
Korean Fan Dance	10
Hip Hop	12
Irish Reel	13
Korean Ballad	14
Chinese Lion Dance	15
15 Minute Intermission	
Irish Hard Shoe	16
African Dance	17
Ballet	18
Chinese Ribbon Dance	19
Chinese Yo-Yo	21
Flamenco	22
Tagalog Ballad	23
Swing Dance	24
Italian Opera	25
Bollywood	26

Greek Dance

Greek dance is composed of over 4,000 different styles and interpretations from the various islands and surrounding mainland areas. Each region formed its own choreography and style to fit in with their own ways. For example, island dances have more of a "watery" flow to them, while Pontic dancing closer to Black Sea is very sharp.

Traditional Greek dancing has a primarily social purpose as it brings the community together at key points of the year such as Easter, the grape harvest or patronal festivals, and weddings. Because this is traditional dance, there is a strict order in the arrangement of dancers by age.

Performed by: Shamayal Jamil, Christian O'Brien, Samara Bustamante, Connie Mottola, Stephanie Farkash, Nirali Patel, Gabrielle Young, Nora Gaston, Elia Cabrera, Priscilla Hernandez, Namrah Zaman

Choreographed by: Eftihia Katsaros



Tagalog Ballad

The music of the Philippines is a mixture of European, American and indigenous sounds. Much of the music of the Philippines have been influenced by the 333 year-long colonial legacies of Spain, Western rock and roll, hip hop and pop music from the United States.

In the late 1950s, native performers wrote Tagalog lyrics for North American rock n'roll music, resulting in the beginnings of Filipino rock. Today, the Philippines is perhaps Asia's most vibrant music-obsessed country, with many home spawned bands. There has always been a blend of rock and easy-listening styles Filipino Rock, so it is not unusual for a single artist or group to have a wide repertoire and an equally wide range of fans. A retired businessman may find himself seated next to a teen girl at a concert, and outcheering her after a favorite song.

Title of Piece: *Don't Ever Say* by Kitchie Nadal

Performed by: Jillian Borja



Flamenco

Flamenco is a Spanish musical genre with strong, rhythmic undertones and is often accompanied with a similarly impassioned style of dance characterized by its powerful yet graceful execution, as well as its intricate hand and footwork. Flamenco embodies a complex musical and cultural tradition.

The roots of flamenco are not precisely known, but it is generally acknowledged that flamenco grew out of the unique interplay of native Andalusian, Islamic, Sephardic, and Gypsy cultures that existed in Andalusia prior to and after the Reconquest.

Performed by: Josefa Velasquez, Asma Alvi, Elia Cabrera, Ruby Namoca, Victoria Rothbard, Tina Sciortino, Samara Bustamante, Priscilla Hernandez, Christine Rai, Binish Anjum

Choreographed by: Josefa Velasquez



Tinikling

Tinikling is a Filipino folk dance that involves two people hitting bamboo poles in a beat—clap—clap sequence on the ground with one or more dancers who step over and in between the poles in a dance. It originated from the Visayan islands in central Philippines as an imitation of the tikling bird dodging bamboo traps set by rice farmers.

When the bamboo closes it has to be hard enough to make a sound and the dancers must be quick enough to not get their foot (or feet) caught as the sound of clashing bamboo thrills the crowd and the quickness of feet demonstrated by the dancers awes them.

Performed by: Ruby Namoca, Gabrielle Cohen, Aamir Waheed, Ariel Namoca, Marie Agpalo, Glenn Noynay, Justin Cuyan, Skylar Kettering, Dan Dan Lu, Shafia Rana, Christine Sicwaten, Sabah Waheed

Choreographed by: Ruby Namoca

Taught by: Ruby Namoca, Gabrielle Cohen



Spanish Pop Song

Latin Pop generally refers to pop music that has what may be perceived a "Latin" influence. The definition of "Latin" varies, however. Linguistically, pop music sung in Spanish, or other languages derived from Latin, may be considered Latin pop. Geographically, it could refer to pop music from Latin America or sung by Latin Americans, generally regarded as Hispanics.

There are two main variants. The first one is regular pop performed in the Spanish, Spanglish, Portuguese or English for international audiences. The second one mixes pop with a wide variety of Latin American or Iberian rhythms.

Title of Piece: *Como La Flor* by Selena

Performed by: Kelly Glen



Chinese Yo -Yo

The Chinese Yo-yo is a toy from China consisting of two equally-sized discs connected with a long axle. The Chinese yo-yo is kept spinning on a string tied to two sticks at its ends. Each stick is held in one hand. In modern times, it is used as a children's toy and as a performance tool in juggling and sometimes in Chinese ethnic dance. It is possible to perform a large variety of tricks with the Chinese yo-yo which can be as easy as throwing the yo-yo up into the air or tossing it around the user's back.

Performed by: Michael Hung, Lisa Benison, Julia Poje, Colleen Poje, Shery Waheed, Safraz Bacchus, Glenn Noynay, Derrick Ward, Ryan Bhagratti, Angela Yeh, Roshan Chhatlani, Nicole Silverstein

Choreographed by: Jason Hsi





Mexican Skirt Dance

The Mexican Skirt Dance is a folkdance from the Jalisco region, and is known for its vibrant colors in attire. Its choreography requires multiple couples with synchronized movement. The female costume is basically composed of a long, colorful, flowing skirt that is incorporated into the dance itself.

Performed by: Ileana Estevez, Katerina Rozon, Amanda Rozon, Ben Costabile, Jonathan Gil, Angela Negrino, Deborah Machalow, Olivia Sciacca, Gabrielle Young, Samara Bustamante

Choreographed by: Samara Bustamante



Asian Fan Dance

The Asian Fan Dance is a traditional dance usually performed by groups of female dancers. They use fans to represent images such as flowers, butterflies and waves.

While this type of dance is performed throughout Asia, the attire for the fan dance can vary from country to country. In Korea, the attire for this dance is the traditional “Han-Bok” which is characterized by vibrant colors and simple lines. In China, there is more of a variety of costumes, including qi paos and decorative aprons.

Performed by: Amy Kim, Vagnola Pamphile, Kim Faust, Amanda Lou, Carolyn Hung, Felyn Wolkowicki, Stephanie Farkash, Stephanie Jogie, Nirali Patel, Jessica Pak, Kristine Lee, Asma Alvi, Jen Hillman, Skylar Kettering

Choreographed by: Amy Kim

Taught by: Amy Kim, Amanda Lou, Carolyn Hung



Chinese Ribbon

Chinese Ribbon dance emerged during the Tang Dynasty because the emperor once dreamed of a palace where he was surrounded by beautiful dancing fairies in colorful flowing robes. This dream turned into a command for a dance with spectacular displays of long silk ribbons to make his dream come alive.

The traditional Chinese ribbon dance, once performed only for royalty, is now popular among all audiences for its grace and beauty. These silk dancing ribbons can be beautiful when they float and undulate through the air.

Performed by: Olivia Sciacca, Michelle Citron, Blake Teramo, Amy Evron, Chloe Steindam, Stacy Steiner, Christine Sicwaden, Dan Dan Lu, Shafia Rana, Tanzilah Rana, Sabah Waheed, Sana Waheed

Choreographed by: Rachel Chow, Victoria Chan, and Paige Logan



Modern Ballet

Ballet is best known for its unique features and techniques, such as pointe work, turn-out of the legs, and high extensions; its graceful, flowing, precise movements; and its ethereal qualities. The art of ballet did not emerge until the late 1400's in Italy. Italy began the ballet tradition, but it was the French that enabled it to blossom. Incorporating aspects of Italian ballet, French ballet gained prominence and influenced the dance genre internationally. To this day, the majority of ballet vocabulary originates from French.

Performed by: Gena Novelli, Amanda Servian



Kip Hop

Hip hop is both a music genre and a cultural movement developed in urban communities starting in the 1970's, predominantly by African Americans. The dance itself refers to street dance style and primarily danced to hip hop music and has evolved into a part of hip hop culture.

Since first emerging in New York City in the 1970's, hip hop has grown to encompass an entire lifestyle that consistently incorporates diverse elements of ethnicity, technology, art and urban life. It has spread to many cultures and has taken on forms that reflect the culture of the performer.

Performed By: Saba Kabir, Veronica Bohorquez, Nazahah Dar, Sara Kabir, Jenna Lentini, Tina Sciortino, Christian O'Brien, Aneesa Rafeek, Christine Rai, Aamir Waheed, Derrick Ward, Vagnola Pamphile, Taniesha Allen, Malik Hill

Choreographed By: Saba Kabir, Sara Kabir, Malik Hill



African Dance

Africans dance in all sorts of occasions to express their inner feelings, whether of joy or of sorrow. While the dancing is spontaneous and voluntary, the drumbeat provides the rhythm that holds the dancers together.

In villages throughout the continent, the sound and the rhythm of the drum express the mood of the people. The drum is the sign of life; its beat is the heartbeat of the community. Such is the power of the drum to evoke emotions, to touch the souls of those who hear its rhythms.

Performed by: Taniesha Allen, Samara Bustamante, Vagnola Pamphile, Gabrielle Young, Kristine Lee, Kim Faust, Solmar Abril

Drummers: Aamir Waheed, Steve Nurse, Angela Yeh

Choreographed by: Taniesha Allen



Irish Hard Shoe

The difference between Irish Hard Shoe and regular Irish Step is that this is done with a shoe that has a hard toe and heel to create the beat that synchronizes with the music. The hard shoe is similar to tap shoes, except that the tips and heels are made of fiberglass, instead of metal, and are significantly bulkier.

Hard shoe dances include the hornpipe, in 2/4 time, the treble jig, in a slow 6/8, the treble reel, and traditional sets, which are a group of 36 dances with set music and steps. The most popular Irish stepdance production, Riverdance, was established in 1994. It is most notable for its rapid leg movements and body and arms being kept stationary. Another famous production is Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance.

Performed by: Julia Poje, Colleen Poje, Kristen Wraith

Choreographed by: Julia Poje



Irish Reel

Irish Step Dance is generally characterized by a stiff upper body and quick and precise movements of the feet. It can be divided into social dance and performance dance. Irish social dancing is more like set dancing whereas performance dancing is more commonly known as stepdancing.

One explanation for the unique habit of keeping the hands and upper body stiff relates to the stage. In order to get a hard surface to dance on, people would often unhinge doors and lay them on the ground. Since this was clearly a very small "stage", there was no room for the movement of the arms.

Performed by: Jen Hillman, Catherine Almonte, Samara Bustamante, Ali Weiner, Gabby Weiner, Julia Poje, Colleen Poje, Kristen Wraith

Choreographed by: Julia Poje & Colleen Poje



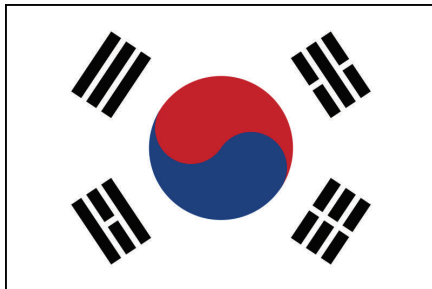
Korean Ballad

The emergence of the group Seo Taiji and Boys in 1992 marked a turning point for Korean popular music, as the group incorporated elements of American popular musical genres of rap, rock, and techno into its music. The tremendous success of Seo Taiji and Boys in Korea and other experimental groups (such as Panic) set the trend for the present generation of K-pop groups and artists. Following Seo Taiji and Boys, dance-oriented acts were dominant in the Korean popular music scene of the early 90s .

K-pop is similar to English pop music, with R&B, dance, and hip-hop being very popular genres in the 2000s. However, unlike English pop music, which had most of its boy bands and girl groups either break up or informally disband, bubblegum pop is still very popular in South Korea.

Title of Piece: *I'll Give All* by Kyuman Cho

Performed by Jiha Lim



Chinese Lion Dance

Chinese Lion Dance goes back some one thousand years. The lions represent joy and happiness. From the fourth day to the fifteenth of the Lunar New Year, lion dance groups would tour from village to village in traditional China. Both lions and dragons figure in New Year's Parades and other celebrations throughout the year.

The Lion Dance also plays an important role in the consecration of temples and other building, at business openings, planting and harvest times, official celebrations, and religious rites.

Performed by: Aamir Waheed, Justin Gamba, Malcolm Sharpes, Marc Benison, Jen Hillman, Michael Hung, Nicholas Chong, Juan Alzate, Jeremy Cortez, Mohammed Ansari, Jaclyn Jeffrey-Wilensky, Catherine Almonte, Adriana Tringone

Choreographed by: Randy Yung, Aamir Waheed

